



STEEL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Memorial Books

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Joyce Fienberg, Richard Gottfried, Rose Mallinger, Jerry Rabinowitz, Cecil Rosenthal, David Rosenthal, Bernice Simon, Sylvan Simon, Melvin Wax, Irving Younger, and Daniel Stein**, victims of the massacre on October 27, 2018, at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill; **Audrey A. Titmus**, retired cafeteria worker, grandmother of Dylan Titmus, Park School custodian, grandmother of Kacie Titmus, substitute teacher, mother-in-law of Susan Titmus, Barrett paraprofessional and former mother-in-law of Sherri Titmus, middle school secretary; **Jack Nolan**, brother of Jane Banyas, first grade teacher at Park School; **John Olson**, Steel Valley Class of 1989, brother of Tom Olson, School Board Vice President, and cousin of Amanda Olson, middle school math teacher; **Mark Lucas**, Steel Valley Class of 1984; **Goldie B. Ottenheimer**, retired home economics teacher; **Wanda Pusatere**, mother of retired teachers Rosemary Tyler and the late Dr. Carol McKenna; **Agnes C. (Patterson) Hogg**, retired secretary to the Director of Secondary Education and sister of retired school nurse Janice Lebedda and retired teacher Judy Murray; **Jane Dolton**, grandmother of Jamie Dolton, family and consumer science teacher; **Randy W. Zirkle**, high school technology education teacher; **Robert Forrest**, father of Sandy Reiner, accounts payable secretary and father-in-law of John Reiner, substitute custodian; **Helen L. Knox**, wife of retired custodian George Knox; **Marlene Supak**, wife of retired principal Raymond Supak; and **Carmela Zenone**, mother of John Zenone, Director of Operational Services/Board Secretary. It was moved by **Ms. Youngblood** and seconded by **Mrs. Yuhas** to place a selection of appropriate books into the school libraries in their memory.

Student Representatives' Reports

Junior School Board Representative **Channing Griffin** announced that three students at Barrett Elementary School were recognized as first, second and third place winners by the Allegheny County Volunteer Fire Departments for their winning fire prevention posters.

The Veterans Day program went very well with many parents and community members attending. Parent teacher conferences were attended by over 85 parents. Over 50 Barrett students attended the Pittsburgh Penguins practice on December 3.

ALCOSAN Corporation has completed science experiments and conducted labs for students in all five grade levels. Propel School used Barrett School as their emergency site when they completed a school evacuation in November.

The Park School staff and students did a great job at its Veterans Day Assembly, and the veterans who attended really appreciated it.

Park students have been working very hard and are excited for some of the fun events and activities coming up in December, such as, Santa's Workshop, the Charlie Brown Dinner and Dance, Holiday Revue, and the School Wide PJs & Movie Day.

Miss Isabella Furrick, senior representative to the School Board, announced that the middle school teachers led a Digital Citizenship workshop for all grade levels, and the workshops focused on the topics of plagiarism, digital footprint and cyber-bullying.

On the inservice day held on November 21, the middle school staff took part in technology advancement sessions that focused on applications and various aspects of incorporating technology into robust and applicable lessons.

Middle school students took part in the Veterans Day assembly on November 9. Congratulations to essay contest winners: **Alex Brown, Breanna Francis, John Heddleston, Audrey Craycroft, Darwin Burns, Chelsea Bulger** and **Savannah Auberzinsky**.

The Yankee Candle and Sarris candy fundraisers were conducted at the middle school. Yankee candles can still be ordered online if anyone is interested in placing an order.

Parent teacher conferences were held November 14, and the middle school had 25% participation by parents.

Fifth and sixth grade students participated in the "Escape Artists" STREAM event. Escape rooms were designed around a historical figure that each group selected. Students were put through a series of lateral thinking puzzles, information seeks, and two escape rooms. The object of the STREAM event was to get students to communicate with one another, think laterally, and look at objects through a different lens. Groups were then tasked with constructing their own escape room. Students were taught how to create and decipher codes for their rooms, how to research, and how to create clues.

Sixty-two fifth grade students visited the PPG Arena to take part in the "Penguins Practice Day for Kids."

Ms. Furrick reported that on Saturday, November 24, the Steel Valley Varsity Football Team became the WPIAL AA champions. Congratulations to the Ironmen.

Keystone testing in Algebra, Literature, and Biology took place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week.

The PNC career collaborative held another session on November 28. Through this program, seniors are given the opportunity to learn skills that will help them in the career world.

Auditions for the spring musical, "The Sound of Music," took place on November 30, and the cast has already begun rehearsals.

The Veterans Day assembly on November 9 was a huge success. Students, teachers, and members of the community celebrated our veterans.

A mentoring program has been created by **Mrs. Reilly**, in which high school students provide guidance for middle school students.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer congratulated the coaches and players of the Varsity Football team for winning the AA WPIAL championship. The team's record was 48-5 over four years, and this is their second championship in three years. This was a team effort by 18 players.

Our middle school is an Apple Distinguished School, and Mr. Wehrer thanked **David Diokno** and **Brian Dorfner** from Apple for coming to recognize our middle school. Mr. Diokno stated that teachers are raising the level of learning to transform the learning experience for students. Teaching and technology is how teachers are driving instruction. Steel Valley is a pillar for other school districts to observe. He is excited to have the middle school as an Apple Distinguished School. Mr. Aaron Johnson also thanked the staff for their perseverance and resiliency in submitting the application. Mr. Bryan Macuga thanked the middle school staff for the team effort in bringing this recognition to our district.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology's Report

Mr. Colebank announced that an upgrade to the phone system will occur during winter break. The new website is live, and any information should be sent to the webmasters. Also new ideas are welcome concerning the website.

Solicitor's Report

The Board approved the tax payment refunds to Homestead Partners on Blocks and Lots: 130-P-10 RU, 130-P-10, 130-P-334, 130-P-267, 130-P-155 and 130-P-101 for the 2017 taxes less the amount of the 2016 realty taxes due on Block and Lot 130-P-267 in the net amount of \$24,764.44.

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for November 2018 in the amount of \$704,368.39
- General Fund hand checks for October 2018 in the amount of \$2,377,464.66
- General Fund Revenue Report for October 2018
- General Fund Expenditure Report for October 2018
- General Fund Balance Sheet for October 2018
- Food Service invoices for October 2018 in the amount of \$48,802.86
- Food Service Revenue Report for October 2018
- Food Service Expenditure Report for October 2018
- Food Service Balance Sheet for October 2018
- Payroll Funding Transfers for October 2018
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for October 2018
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for October 2018
- Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for October 2018

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Updated Facility Use Agreement and Shelter Facility Survey between the American Red Cross and the Steel Valley School District
- List of bus/van drivers submitted by PA Coach that are currently driving for the district in the 2018-2019 school year with clearances on file

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Overnight field trip for The Future is Mine Club and chaperones to attend the TFIM Student Leadership Conference on April 11 and 12, 2019
- Authorized payment of \$2,500 to the Senior Breakfast/Reception account to defray the costs of the Senior Breakfast for the Class of 2019
- Creation of a new student activity entitled "Steel Valley Lunch Club" for high school students to talk about the health and wellness of students with **Mrs. Lisa Runco** and **Dr. Robert Branch** as volunteer sponsors for the 2018-2019 school year

Special Assignments

The Board held a first reading of revisions to Policy 227 Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia.

Educational Leadership

The School Board approved and authorized the advertising of the 2019 Board meeting dates as presented.

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Intermittent family medical leave of absence for **John Zenone** retroactive to November 13, 2018, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- Intermittent family medical leave of absence for **Michael Sisley** retroactive to November 5, 2018, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- Appointed **Lauren Varacalli** to a full-time, long-term substitute teaching position effective December 7, 2018, for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year with an assignment of math teacher in the middle school at Master's Step 1 salary according to Policy No. 328.1 plus benefits as outlined in the SVEA collective bargaining agreement
- **Lori Dudro** as a day-to-day substitute teacher retroactive to November 16, 2018, for the 2018-2019 school year at the approved daily rate, contingent upon compliance with Act 168 of 2014, and passing physical and drug screening exams, which must be completed within 30 days
- Voluntary deletion of special education certification from **Traci Churilla's** teaching certificate, at her request
- Appointed **Patrick Loughran** to the position of High School Head Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2018-2019 school year
- Appointed **Jessica Thompson** to a Districtwide Paraeducator at a rate of \$10.10 per hour plus \$1.50 per hour for highly qualified status plus benefits as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement effective on a mutually agreed upon date, contingent upon passing pre-employment screenings, compliance with Act 168 and receipt of current clearances, which must be completed within 30 days
- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of **Kathleen Grimm**, with all benefits of the current collective bargaining agreement, effective March 2, 2019
- Additional volunteer to the existing athletic coaching volunteer list for the 2018-2019 school year

Special Meeting December 12, 2018

The Board approved the following items:

- Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and the Steel Valley Education Association (SVEA) for five (5) school years beginning 2019-2020 and ending 2023-2024
- Resolution opposing and delaying implementation of the "Safe2Say Something" program